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Claiborne Pell

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June 19, 1984

Honorable William J. Bennett
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design has recently submitted two applications to the Museums and Historical Organizations category of the Division of General Programs.

One request, for \$25,000 is for the publication of a handbook on the Museum's permanent collection. Such a catalogue will present the entire collection for the first time in a single volume. The handbook will describe the holdings of each department in detail as well as present a history of the Museum in such a way as to be of interest and practical use to the public and to scholars alike.

The second request, in the amount of \$9,000 is for the conservation of the Museum's ancient Egyptian mummy and coffin and for the construction of a new case for both. The conservation of this popular object is essential if it is to remain on display and continue to provide a focal point for the understanding of an especially fine Egyptian collection. A new exhibition case will provide the stable environment which such a fragile object requires. It also will permit the public to view the mummy from all sides, something which has not been possible with the existing case.

I want to express my strong support for each of these applications from the Museum at the Rhode Island School of Design and it is my hope that, after careful consideration, the Endowment will act favorably on both of them. I would, in addition, appreciate being kept informed of the status of these grant requests as they proceed through the review process.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

EC/ap